DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claim 1, 3, 4-9, 11 and 13-19 are allowed in view of Examiner's Amendment presented below.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John Kacvinsky on 21 November, 2011.

In the claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a plurality of reader antennae, the method comprising the steps of:

determining a priority order of the plurality of reader antennae;

and

setting a polling sequence for reading the plurality of reader antennae according to the priority order determined in said determining step[.] ;

wherein said determining step further comprising the steps of:

assigning a preference level to each of the plurality of reader antennae; and

deriving a priority order based on the preference levels assigned to each of the plurality of reader antennae;

wherein said assigning step comprises assigning preference levels based on products detected by each of the plurality of reader antennae;

wherein said assigning step comprises the steps of:

calculating for each of the plurality of reader antennae a probability that a detected product will be moved from a predetermined location; and

assigning a preference level to each of the plurality of reader antennae based on the probability calculated.

Claim 2. (Cancelled).

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [2] 1, wherein said assigning step further comprises assigning a first reader antenna having a higher preference level with a higher priority than at least a second reader antenna having a lower priority.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [2] 1, further comprising the step of reading the plurality of reader antennae according to the priority order determined in said determining step.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [2] 1, wherein said assigning step comprises randomly assigning a preference level to each of the plurality of reader antennae.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [2] 1, further comprising the step of inactivating a reader antenna.

Claim 10. (Cancelled).

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [10] 1, wherein said assigning step comprises assigning a first reader antenna that detects a larger number of products with a higher preference level than at least a second reader antenna that detects a smaller number of products.

Claim 12. (Cancelled).

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [12] 1, wherein said calculating step comprises detecting movement frequency of the plurality of products from a predetermined location during a predetermined time interval; and calculating the average movement frequency of the plurality of products from the predetermined location during the predetermined time interval.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [2] 1, wherein said assigning step comprises ,assigning preference levels according to a preference factor selected from the group consisting of: movement of an identifying tag associated with a reader antenna; proximity of a customer to a reader antenna; proximity of an employee to a reader antenna; and proximity of a product to a reader antenna.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [2] 1, wherein said assigning step comprises assigning preference levels based on input data from a device selected from the group of: a computer server; a computer workstation; a handheld device; a telephone; and a wireless device.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [2] 1, wherein said assigning step comprises assigning preference levels based on input data from a sensor.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) A method of adjusting the priority order of a polling sequence for a plurality of RFID antennae, the method comprising the steps of:

providing product support structures, wherein each product support structure is associated with at least one RFID antenna;

placing a plurality of products on at least one of the product support structures, wherein each of the plurality of products is associated with an RFID tag;

identifying the location of each of the plurality of products by detecting the associated RFID tags with the plurality of RFID antennae;

assigning a priority order to the plurality of RFID antennae, wherein the priority order is determined by assigning a preference level to each of the plurality of RFID antennae;

assigning a polling sequence for reading the plurality of RFID reader antennae according to the priority order[.] ;

wherein said priority order comprises assigning preference levels based on products detected by each of the plurality of reader antennae;

wherein said the priority order comprises the steps of:

calculating for each of the plurality of reader antennae a probability that a detected product will be moved from a predetermined location; and

assigning a preference level to each of the plurality of reader antennae based on the probability calculated.

Claim 20. (Cancelled).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest a combination of a method of operating a plurality of reader antennae, the method comprising the steps of: determining a priority order of the plurality of reader antennae; and setting a polling sequence for reading the plurality of reader antennae according to the priority order determined in said determining step; wherein said determining step further comprising the steps of: assigning a preference level to each of the plurality of reader antennae; and deriving a priority order based on the preference levels assigned to each of the plurality of reader antennae; wherein said assigning step comprises assigning preference levels based on products detected by each of the plurality of reader antennae; wherein said assigning step comprises the steps of: calculating for each of the plurality of reader antennae a probability that a

detected product will be moved from a predetermined location; and assigning a preference level to each of the plurality of reader antennae based on the probability calculated. This along with the rest of the claimed limitations is not shown by the prior art.

Citation of Other Prior Arts

4. The prior art made a record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Sturm discloses in Method of bearing determination utilizing a bottom antenna in an aircraft tracking system (US 5235336), Eisenberg discloses in Radio frequency identification in document management (US 2002/0196126), Sayers discloses in Method and system for providing an active routing antenna (US 7015809), Kohno discloses in Radio communication system (US 6522898), and Thomassen discloses in Antenna system (US 6452536).

Conclusion

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FEKADESELASSIE GIRMA whose telephone number is (571)270-5886. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jennifer Mehmood can be reached on 571-272-2666. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/F.G./

/Jennifer Mehmood/
Acting SPE of Art Unit 2612
November 28, 2011